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sensation of the most evident conclusions that have been reached in regard to the composition, date, etc., of the *Perlesvaus*. But, instead, Dr. Evans has chosen to advance a theory of his own, which has the glaring fault of paying little or no attention to the treatment which the romance had already received.

But *The High History of the Grail* should not be neglected because the epilogue to it is poor. The important thing is the translation, and this, as we have said, is admirably done.

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GERMAN LITERATURE.

Deutsches Lesebuch in Lautschrift: Erster Teil, von W. VIETOR. Leipzig, Teubner, 1899. 8vo, xii, 159 pp.

THE efficacy of a phonetic transcription in the teaching of English and French has been proved beyond a reasonable doubt. For rationally spelled languages, on the other hand, we may well question its utility; Spanish and Italian pronunciation, for instance, are sufficiently indicated by the addition of a few diacritics to the standard orthography. Whether the spelling of German is irregular enough to warrant the use of a special notation, experience alone can decide; and no experiment has yet been attempted on a large scale. To any one wishing to make the trial, the appearance of Vietor's new book offers an excellent opportunity. The *Deutsches Lesebuch* is a small volume, attractive to the eye, clearly printed, and strongly bound. It begins with a table of sounds, followed by several pages of separate vowels and consonants and words, arranged for practice; all of which, by the way, would be unintelligible to an ordinary student without supplementary explanation. Then we have sixty-six pages of prose and verse in the usual orthography, and, facing each page, a phonetic transcription. The selections are fresh, thoroughly German, and adapted to the taste of a child from eight to thirteen years old. They are grouped in three classes: *Bei Scherz und Spiel, Bei der Arbeit, In Haus und Hof*. At the back of the book are some notes on matters of orthoepy and dialect. The alphabet employed is that of the Association

Phonétique Internationale, very slightly modified; though not so pleasing as Vietor's own system, used in his *German Pronunciation*, it serves its purpose well enough. Less commendable is the practice of denoting rival pronunciations by two small letters separated by a sloping line, as in "'zak/xtə," meaning *sagte* with the *g* sounded either as a stop or as a spirant: such an abbreviation is readily understood by a phonetician, but cannot fail to increase the perplexity of a beginner. Furthermore, the bewildering abundance of symbols in the transcription suggests that perhaps too much is indicated; might it not have been better to leave some things—glottal stop, accent, divergent usage, stress-group, or breath-group—to the discretion of the teacher? One may doubt, also, whether the stogy or provincial tongue-tip trill is the best type of *r* to impart to the unsuspecting pupil. However, in spite of any such misgivings, we can unreservedly admire the workmanship of the *Lesebuch*, which, though constructed on a smaller scale, deserves a place beside the *Chrestomathie française* of Rambeau and Passy.

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FRENCH VERSIFICATION.

The Technique of the French Alexandrine.

A study of the works of Leconte de Lisle, José-Maria de Heredia, François Coppée, Sully Prudhomme and Paul Verlaine, by HUGO P. THIEME. 8vo, pp. 68.

THIS monograph, which bears no date on its title page, was a Johns Hopkins dissertation of 1897. It was printed a few months ago at Ann Arbor. Students of French literature were already indebted to its author for his excellent bibliography of nineteenth century writers, published in Paris two years since, and this new publication adds to their obligations.

The dissertation is divided into two parts. Part i consists of an Introduction, which is in reality an historical survey of French versification since the seventeenth century, particularly in regard to overflow, rime and rythm. Here we find the principles of the classical verse stated, the causes for its passage into romantic verse, the rules for the placing of rests in the